November 17, 2020

Via email: achau@copyright.gov, jslo@copyright.gov

Regan Smith
  General Counsel and Associate Register of Copyrights
Anna Chauvet
  Associate General Counsel
Jason Sloan
  Assistant General Counsel
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20559-6000

RE: Docket No. 2020-12
  Music Modernization Act Transition Period Transfer and Reporting of Royalties to the Mechanical Licensing Collective

Dear Ms. Smith, Ms. Chauvet, and Mr. Sloan:

This letter summarizes the Music Artists Coalition’s (MAC) participation in the Friday, November 13th ex parte discussion on the topic of MMA transition period transfer and the reporting of royalties to the MLC.

Attendees:

Music Artists Coalition
Jordan Bromley
Ned Waters

During the discussion, Music Artists Coalition (MAC) board member Jordan Bromley reiterated comments MAC has made throughout the implementation process and urged the Office, MLC and DLC to ensure that songwriters’ royalties are paid pursuant to the Act. Namely, that once a composition is matched, the copyright owner should receive the benefit of the royalty, without delay. Furthermore, there should be no delay in the distribution of the unmatched royalty pool to the non settling market participants.

MAC encourages transparency amongst the parties involved in the prior negotiated agreements, and implores them to disclose the amounts settled so that affected songwriters can understand the scope of the issue. To that goal, we are thankful to the MLC for promising to be a “trusted party” in its role receiving unmatched royalties and working to see them paid to the correct parties.

In sum, whatever solution the Office, the MLC and the DLC find, it is vital that it does not affect the timely distribution of matched income and eventual distribution of unmatched income.
Finally, MAC would like to thank the Copyright Office for their time and consideration on this important topic. This organization is grateful for the chance to participate in these discussions and looks forward to providing any additional input the Office might require as final determinations are made.

Sincerely,
Jordan Bromley
MAC Board of Directors